

City of Burlington Futures Project Questions

June 14, 2006

Questions regarding Governance

1. Will facility be a “State” or a private FAHC facility?
2. Is FAHC in a position to financially partner with the State? (W1)
3. How will we know that the State has a long term commitment to funding such a facility?
4. Who will be the responsible party for questions and accountability with regard to the operation of the new facility (State or FAHC)?
5. What is the timeline for the inpatient facility process, including decision-making flow chart (milestones)?
6. Will there be an ongoing Community Advisory Panel? What will their role/accountability/authority be, especially with regard to the future of the facility?

Questions regarding Mental Health Delivery System

1. Number of beds at proposed facility on FAHC campus?
2. Who will the patients be at the new facility (mental condition, legal status, etc.)?
3. Will “Observation” patients (i.e. individuals accused of crimes and ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluation by the District Court) be lodged at the new facility?
4. What will the ratio of staff to patient be?
5. How many jobs will be created? (W1)
6. How many jobs will be lost?
7. What portion of the VSH population comes from this part of the State? Can you provide documentation of number of admissions to VSH from Burlington/Chittenden County and other counties? (see similar questions in Community Impact).

Questions regarding Public Safety

1. As the patients at the new facility will be there “involuntarily,” how will the safety of FAHC staff and the public be protected?
2. What is the impact of this on public safety services? Does the State intend to compensate the City for increased services?
3. Will there be an increase in FAHC Security?
4. It is our understanding that currently the Vermont State Police covers VSH. What will the State Police role be if the new inpatient facility is located on the FAHC campus?
5. If there are allegations of abuse or neglect, assault, etc. at the facility, will State Police or BPD be responsible for intervening and investigation?
6. How often can we expect BPD to be called upon to serve process on patients?
7. How often can we expect BPD to be called upon to transport patients to court or other places?
8. How often can we expect BPD to be called upon to assist with altercations or other disturbances at new facility?
9. There is currently a Memorandum of Agreement for the Hospital between the City (BPD) and UVM. How will that change, if at all?
10. What are the VSH policies and procedures for sharing information with local police? Will that change?
11. How often can we expect BPD to be called upon to pick-up “walk-aways” (escapes)?
12. How will day to day communication with BPD occur, including day passes, discharges, etc.?
13. Will there be any limitation on BPD officers in uniform being present in the facility?
14. How often can we expect BFD to be called upon to provide fire protection and ambulance services?

Questions regarding Community Impact

1. What other communities and hospitals were approached or considered for this project before Burlington was selected?
2. Describe access of patients to community, including social and human services, day pass or privileges, transitional housing, etc. Under what circumstances will such access to community be supervised or unsupervised?
3. Will patients be discharged with notice, a place to live, programming and other plans?
4. Under what circumstances would patients be discharged without notice, a plan or a place to live?
5. What numbers and impact on services can we expect with respect to more patients moving to Burlington in light of locating the new facility here?
6. Does the State intend to compensate the City or non profit organizations for increased impact on services, particularly upon release to the community?
7. Would location of such a facility in Burlington predispose the City to an increased share of transitional housing for former patients or others given the additional concentration of related mental health services and professionals?
8. If so, is there adequate affordable housing, particularly transitional housing and community services currently and in the future for out patients? (W1)
9. What would be the number and percentage of patients released from the hospital who will be from Chittenden County?
10. What percentage of those who reside outside of Chittenden County do you estimate will remain in the Burlington area because of our strong social service network (versus the less strong social service network available in other parts of the state)?
11. Based on our experience over the past six years, we see many recently released patients from the state hospital in our downtown and on the Marketplace because of our strong social services. What will impact be on downtown?
12. What is the percentage increase in state funding being considered for the Burlington Community Street Outreach Project?

Questions regarding Design and Development

1. How will parking and traffic issues be addressed? (W1)
2. FAHC lot coverage...is there potential to expand? (W1)
3. Any plans to request changes to the City - FAHC Agreement?(W1)
4. With regard to traffic and parking, will the VSH be a member of CATMA and thus actively participate in their TDM programs?
5. How will the facility, both programmatically, logistically and aesthetically relate to FAHC and UVM?
6. Will such a facility share a heating and cooling plant with FAHC or be stand alone?
7. Will such a plant anticipate future development of a district-wide energy system that may provide hot water from McNeil Station?
8. Will such a facility be developed as a green building (i.e. LEEDS certification)?
9. How will the aesthetics of security be addressed - i.e. fences, barriers, lighting?

Miscellaneous Questions

1. What are the national trends regarding location of inpatient mental health facility, including rural setting or near medical services? (W1)
2. How does NH fund and operate a Dartmouth mental health facility in Concord?